

January 2, 2017

Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner
Brooke Whiting Cash, Chair, Planning Board
Robert Sepucha, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals
Town of Concord
141 Keyes Road
Concord, MA 01742
Middlesex School
1400 Lowell Road
Concord, MA 01742

Re: ITW Middlesex School Cell Tower Balloon Test (12.30.16)

Dear Elizabeth, Brooke and Robert,

We are writing to you collectively to say that, as Bartkus Farm residents, the balloon test held Friday, December 30th was not acceptable and should be conducted again. We question the accuracy on three counts:

1. **Crane location was positioned significantly away from the proposed location.** The crane was positioned roughly 125' away from the actual site. It is difficult for anyone in the neighborhood to ascertain the visual impacts of the site proposed.
2. **Balloon not visible for more than 1/2 of the test time frame.** The balloon was attached for the first hour and a half before it burst, and then again for less than an hour before it burst a second time. It is difficult to ascertain the visual impacts of a black crane against trees. Having the red balloon does help us all understand the impact from various vantage points.
3. **Uncertain that the height was 120'.** Several of us visited the site and we are not convinced that the height was accurate. We ask that you, as a board, to verify the measurement.

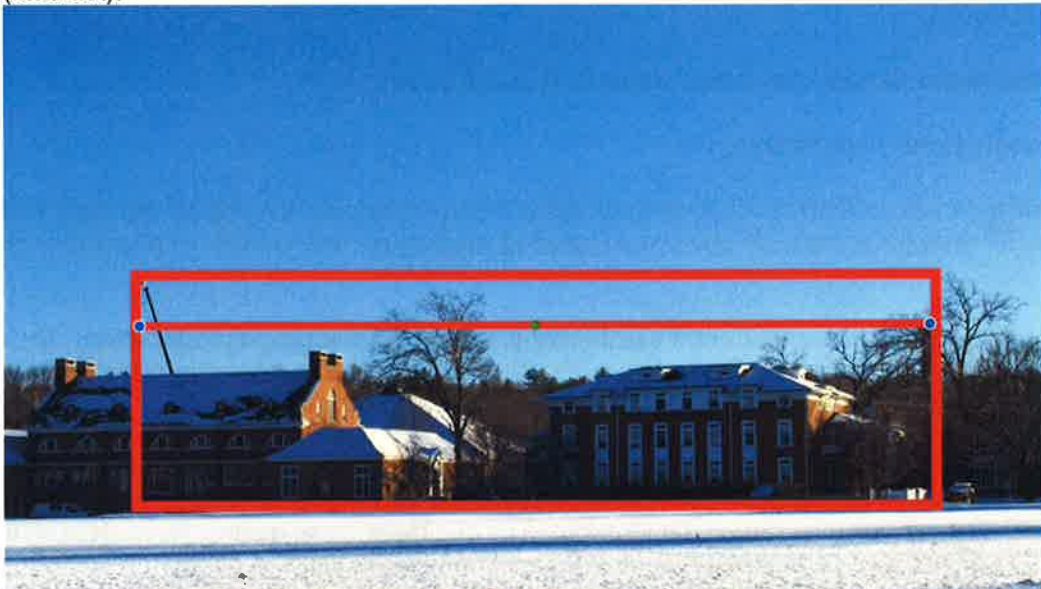
We do not believe that Middlesex School has adequately communicated to the community an accurate depiction of the proposed cell tower. For many of us, the economic impact of the aesthetics of a cell tower is our primary concern. The only way to fully understand the impact is to conduct a fair and reasonable test. Therefore, we ask that a proper balloon test be re-administered.

Sincerely,
Residents of Bartkus Farm

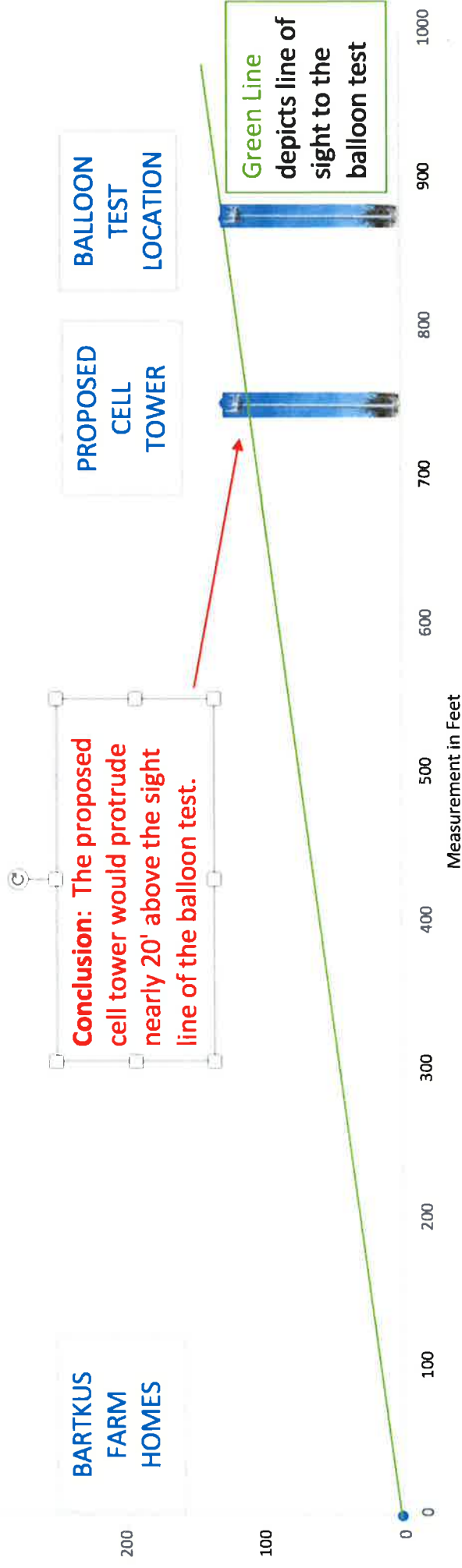
Suzanne and Rob Mirak (#6),
Bin Weng and Kun Liu Weng (#8),
Scott Li and Shirley Ao (#9),
Aram and Anna Adourian (#11),
Lisa Hansel (#14),
AJ and Sheila Sohn (#15),
Stuart and Laura Strong (#16),
Dan and Julie del Sobral (#18)

Selection of images

- *Top image:* representation of the crane test (left hand side of rectangle with height shown in upper left hand corner) and existing smokestack (right hand side of the rectangle with its height drawn as the middle red line). While perspective may allow for inaccuracies, there is enough evidence to request that the Board confirm the height of the test.
- *Left bottom image:* crane test mid-morning over the pool, not in the proper location and without a balloon
- *Right bottom image:* Google map representation of site location (red dot) and crane location (blue dot).



Proposed Cell Tower Line of Sight



Issue: Under General Requirements of the application filed (section 7.8.4.2.p), "...the applicant shall arrange to fly or raise upon a temporary mast, a three foot diameter brightly colored balloon at the maximum height and at the location of the proposed tower."

Concern: The balloon test was conducted 125' away from the proposed location and the implications are that from Bartkus Farm homes, the proposed cell tower would protrude nearly 20' above the sight line as demonstrated by the December 2016 balloon test. The balloon test was not an accurate depiction of the aesthetic impact to the community that the proposed cell tower will have.

Recommendation: Another balloon test needs to be performed "at the location of the proposed tower" (according to the application) so that the Town Planning and Zoning Boards can make a proper evaluation